ing their attention to the reclamation of this backwater as the sole available means of subsistence left for them. Before 1903, more than 50,000 parahs of land had been so reclaimed. He thought that the conversion of the southern corner of the backwater into wet land would in no way prejudicially affect the Cochin harbour situated at its northern extremity and, even if on enquiry it turned out that it did really affect that harbour, arrangements could be made to remove the accumulation of silt every year by means of dredgers and the cost thereof recovered from the ryots concerned. He prayed that this aspect of the question might receive the kind attention of the authorities concerned and all possible relief afforded to the suffering ryots of North Travancore as early as practicable.

Reply.—The matter will receive the serious and sympathetic consideration of Government.

60. Reduction of interest on agricultural loans to 3 per cent.

Mr. G. Sankaranarayana Iyer and Mr. Sattanathan Karayalan (Shencottah) observed that the interest charged on agricultural loans by Government was 4 per cent. at present and it would be desirable to reduce it to 3 per cent.

Reply.—This will receive consideration.

61. Establishment of an Agricultural Board.

Mr. K. S. Shanmukham Pillai (Agricultural Improvement Association, South Travancore) prayed for the establishment of an agricultural board for the benefit of the ryots.

Reply.—This will be considered.

62. Desirability of holding Agricultural Exhibitions in all the Divisions.

Mr. S. Krishna Pillai (Tiruvalla) requested the attention of Government to this subject.

Reply.—This has been already sanctioned. Agricultural exhibitions will be held in all the Divisions.

63. Opening of Agricultural Demonstration Farms.

Mr. Padmanabha Pillai (Eraniel) suggested that a model agricultural farm might be attached to the Eraniel School.

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Mr. K. S. Shanmukham Pillai (*Agricultural Improvement Association, South Travancore*) said that, in Nanjanad, cultivation was still carried on in a primitive manner and that the Agricultural Demonstration Farm at Trivandrum was not of great benefit to the ryots of South Travancore. The member prayed for a model farm being opened in the heart of Nanjanad.

Mr. A. Harihara Iyer (*Chirayinkil*) said that it was necessary to introduce the latest agricultural improvements effected in America and other civilized countries among the ryots of the State and observed that a trial of some of them in his taluk was attended with brilliant results.

Mr. P. M. Chacko, B. A., (*Kottayam*) said that, in spite of the rapid advance of western culture in Travancore, this one department remained in the state in which Parasurama left it and the same old agricultural implements continued to be used down to the present day. The real wealth of Travancore lay in its soil and in the soil lay a capital, the judicious employment of which would make the State one of the richest parts of India. The real pillars of the State were the tillers of the soil and yet Government had hitherto done nothing to improve their condition. People were becoming poorer and poorer and large quantities of rice were being annually imported at great cost from without. The member suggested: (1) that model farms might be opened in all the chief centres of the State or at least one in each of the Divisions and farmers taught the best and most approved methods of cultivating wet and dry lands; (2) that facts and figures concerning agriculture might be collected, printed in the Vernacular and freely circulated among the masses; and (3) that experiments in useful exotic plants might be tried. He concluded by saying that the investment of State funds on a few model farms efficiently managed and worked on practical lines would be one of the best equipments to the happiness and prosperity of His Highness the Maha Rajah's subjects.

Reply.—Government are fully alive to the necessity of doing everything possible in the direction of improving agriculture. The existence of a model farm at Trivandrum itself has been referred to. Recently, I inspected this institution and made certain suggestions to improve the working of the same. An order has been recently

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issued, of which probably you are not aware. During my stay at Quilon on return from Madras, the Superintendent of this farm was sent for there and directed to inspect the waste lands in the town and suggest whether and how far they could be utilized for agricultural purposes. His report is awaited. Orders have also been passed to open an Agricultural Farm at Quilon from the 1st Makarom 1082 and the Assistant to the Superintendent of the Agricultural Demonstration Farm at Trivandrum has been appointed to work the institution under the direction of the Division Peishcar. It has been made a part of his duty to visit village after village, to give instructions to the ryots in introducing approved methods of cultivation and improved and suitable tools of husbandry, to attend to cattle diseases, to teach the ryots the art of securing good manure and to get the best seeds,—in short to attend to everything that will tend to improve agriculture. The extension of such farms to other Divisions requires consideration and time. A student has been sent to England to learn agriculture and allied subjects and another is learning the same in Madras. When these students finish their course and return, their special knowledge will be utilized in the best manner possible and steps taken to improve the situation as far as the finances of the State will permit.

64. Opening of Agricultural Schools.

Mr. A. Harihara Iyer (*Chirayinkil*) *and Mr. K. Chidambara Iyer B. A., L. T.*, (*Changanachery*) requested that agricultural schools might be established in the chief centres of the State for the benefit of the ryot population.

Reply.—A class had been attached to the model farm at Trivandrum, but this has ceased to exist. It will be considered whether it is possible to revive it and whether agricultural schools might be opened in outlying centres by and by.

65. Establishment of Agricultural banks and Co-operative Credit Societies, and State aid for agriculture and industry.

Mr. K. S. Shanmukham Pillai (*Agricultural Improvement Association, South Travancore*) observed that what the ryots required was money in small instalments at different times of the year and, for procuring this, they had now to pledge their property and even to sell the entire standing crop. The Agricultural Loans Regulation was not easily workable in practice and the opening of agricultural banks in all

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